

Amendment After Final  
Application No. 10/076,532  
Attorney Docket No. 020191

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 4 which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:~~

an inputter for inputting the image signals;

a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N : integer ) of the first size; and

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein said recorder includes a searcher for searching unit recording zones each of which is in a vacant state, a writer for writing the compressed image signals into the unit recording zones discovered by said searcher, and a creator for creating link information indicating a link state of the unit recording zones in which the compressed image signals are written.

Claim 3 (Original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed image signals;

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an acceptor for accepting a restoring instruction of said link information; and  
a restorer for restoring said link information on the basis of said identifying number in  
accepting said restoring instruction.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1 which~~  
records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit  
recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;  
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a  
second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N : integer ) of the first size; and  
a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the  
compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein N = 1 is true, and said recorder brings a  
forefront of each of the compressed image signals into being coincident with a forefront of each  
of the unit recording zones.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1 which~~  
records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit  
recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;  
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a  
second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N : integer ) of the first size; and

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a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein  $N \geq 2$  is true, and said recorder includes a detector for detecting a difference between each size of the compressed image signals and the second size, and a former for forming an interval equivalent to the difference between a compressed image signal to be recorded this time and a compressed image signal to be recorded next time in the same unit recording zone.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1 which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:~~

an inputter for inputting the image signals;  
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than  $1/N$  ( $N$  : integer) of the first size; and  
a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein said compressor repeatedly carries out a compression process up to each size of the compressed image signals being equal to or smaller than  $1/N$  of the first size.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1 which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:~~

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an inputter for inputting the image signals;  
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a  
second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N : integer ) of the first size; and  
a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the  
compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein each of the image signals is a still image, and  
said compressor performs a compression process in accordance with a JPEG format.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9,  
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each  
of which has a first size are formed;  
a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which  
is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;  
a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the  
plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and  
a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality  
of unit recording zones, wherein the plurality of still images represents a motion image.

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Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,

comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, further comprising:

an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed still images created by said compressor; and

a restorer for restoring the link based on the identifying numbers assigned by said assigner at a time of accepting a restoring instruction in a state of the link destroyed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,

comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;

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a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and  
a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein the N is 1, and said recorder brings a forefront of the compressed still image into being coincident with a forefront of the unit recording zone.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9 ,  
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein the N is an integer more than 1, and said recorder includes a detector for detecting a difference between each size of the compressed still images and the second size, and an interval former for forming an interval equivalent to the difference between a compressed still image to be recorded this time and a compressed still image to be recorded next time in the same unit recording zone.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9,  
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;  
a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;  
a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and  
a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein said compressor repeatedly carries out a compression process up to a size of the compressed still image being equal to or smaller than 1/N of the first size.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9,  
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;  
a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than 1/N (N: positive integer) of the first size;  
a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

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a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein said compressor carries out a compression process in accordance with a JPEG format.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)